

Indiana Council on Independent Living (ICOIL)

January 14, 2015 --- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Indiana Government Center South (IGCS), Conference Room C  
402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana

**Meeting Notes**

**Attendance:** Bonnie Bomer, Peter Bisbecos, Peter Ciancone, and Peri Rogowski (Designated State Unit Representative - DSU),

**Signed-in Guests/Public:** Virginia Bates, Deanne Hart, Thom Hayes, Latosha Higgins, Beth Lutes, Renae Jackson, Melissa Madill, Jim McCormick, David Nelson, Lisa Oliver, Teresa Reynolds, Richard Simers, Carole Surratt-Bradley, Al Tolbert, and Teresa Torres.

**I. Welcome and Call to Order:**

Council Vice Chairperson Peter Bisbecos called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. He stated that since a quorum was not present that the meeting would be informal.

**II. Roll Call:**

Attendees introduced themselves.

**III. Pledge of Allegiance:**

Council members and guests recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Approval of the January Agenda**

The agenda was not formally approved due to the absence of a quorum.

**V. Approval of the December Minutes**

The minutes were not formally approved due to the absence of a quorum.

**VI. IL Transition Discussion**

Virginia Bates is the Transition Coordinator for the State. She provides outreach and education to VR Staff, Teachers, Parents and Students. Part of her role includes the new initiative: “Work 4 Life Indiana”. This

initiative uses social media, such as “Twitter”, to get the word out about VR to transition-age students.

Project Search is another initiative for students in their last year of school. Ten Project Search sites exist across the state. This program includes a variety of assistance for students to: find a job, access new skills, learn about public transportation, and work with a job coach.

## **VII. New Council Business**

### **A. Discussion: Support for ICOIL-----Peri Rogowski**

Peri has researched various SILC funding models including models from the states of Wisconsin and Michigan.

An option would be for ICOIL and ICOIL, Inc. to develop a Memorandum of Understanding so that ICOIL, Inc. could serve as the fiscal intermediary to support the Council’s activities. The State could then enter into an official contract with ICOIL, Inc.

Peter Bisbecos stated that a key would be to have written concurrence from the Rehabilitative Services Administration (RSA) prior to developing this type of relationship.

Attendees generally agreed that discussion needs to continue to determine the direction ICOIL wants to pursue.

### **B. ICOIL By-Laws-----Peter Ciancone**

Peter Ciancone reviewed the ICOIL By-Laws. He shared that an error should be corrected in Section 1 regarding the 501 (c) 3 status of the board, as that is inaccurate.

### **C. Current Legislation-----Teresa Torres**

Teresa Torres shared her concerns about legislation proposed in favor of assisted suicide. Attendees seemed to generally agree that they too were opposed to the assisted suicide legislation.

Peer Ciancone asked who sponsored the legislation. No one on the council knew the name of the sponsor.

Discussion continued with concerns expressed that this could become a part of other legislation at the last minute. Peter Bisbecos reminded attendees that one must first find a bill that is similar.

## **VII. Update & Report from the Designated State Unit**

Peri Rogowski began her update by sharing that a new Provider Application and a new Service Agreement are in process. Both will help to provide better oversight of providers and provider credentialing. VR rate reforms have been developed and are awaiting public comment.

Disability Awareness Month is in March. Peri shared the Disability Awareness Month fold-out kit with attendees and gave it to Peter Bisbecos to review in case ICOIL wants to consider purchasing items.

More than fifty new VR Case Coordinators have been hired to work in VR Area offices. Case coordinators will enable VR Counselors (VRCs) to spend more time counseling individuals seeking jobs

BRS has initiated monthly meetings with the Directors of the Indiana Centers for Independent Living. They meet from 10:00–11:30 AM on the second Wednesday of the month prior to the ICOIL meeting.

## **IX. Updates, Reports, Comments**

- A. Update: Centers for Independent Living-----Peter Ciancone  
Peter shared that the Independent Living Center Directors have started meeting with BRS monthly - prior to each ICOIL meeting.
- B. Public Comments-----Various
  - 1) Dee Ann Hart – Thanked ICOIL and IN Independent Living Center Directors for the retreat she attended on the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act.
  - 2) Bonnie Bomer – Reminded attendees of the IPAS Client Assistant Program to help those in transition. The program provides a booklet and handouts to address challenges concerning transition.
  - 3) Renae Jackson – Ms. Jackson shared that she thinks that ICOIL should be more about people with Disabilities. Areas of need she

shared included: transit services, housing, work one (employment), and social security.

- 4) Teresa Torres – Ms. Torres commented as summarized below:
- a.) She didn't see an agenda or notice posted on the December 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. She inquired why ICOIL decided to meet so suddenly.
  - b.) She didn't see the August minutes on the Website and asked that they be included.
  - c.) She inquired about the 704 Report and who authorized changes to the State Plan.

**X. Adjournment-----Peter Bisbecos**  
Vice Chairperson Peter Bisbecos asked for any additional comments. In the absence of a quorum, he concluded the meeting.

**Please note:**

- The Pre-Council Meeting, Let's Get Educated, did not meet today.
- The next ICOIL Meeting is February 11, 2015. (Please note: A Pre-Council Education Meeting has not been scheduled.)
- Those needing disability accommodations must contact the DSU: **at 317-232-7115 at least 48 hours prior to the council meeting.**

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